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Borough of Bewdley.

Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1905.

Shepherd & Perkins, Printers, Bewdley.

TO THE

Town Council of Bewdley.

BEWDLEY,

FEBRUARY 1st, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

Death Rate.

During the year 1905 there have been 44 Deaths registered in the Borough, giving a rate of 15·35 per 1,000 of the population.

Of these there were

		under 1 year		8
Over 1	and	under 5	years	3
,, 5	,,	15	,,	1
,, 15	,,	25	,,	1
,, 25	,,	65	,,	16
		Over 65	,,	15
				44

This is lower than the average death rate for the last 10 years, which is 16·04.

Infant Mortality.

There were 8 Deaths under one year of age, giving a rate of 131 per 1,000 children born. This is also lower than the average for the last ten years, which is 142 per 1,000, and is the more satisfactory as the Birth Rate for the year is very low. It also tends to show that the very high Infant Mortality rate of the previous year, as I pointed out in my last Report, was not of any serious importance.

Birth Rate.

There have only been 61 Births during the year, which gives a rate of 21·28 per 1,000 of the population, and is the lowest record for the last twelve years.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year there have been notified five cases of Erysipelas, one of Enteric Fever, which was imported into the Borough, and which proved fatal, and thirteen of Scarlet Fever.

Of the latter all were isolated at home except three, and it is worthy of note that in no instance did a second case occur in the same house except in one where the first child was sent to the Isolation Hospital on June 5th, and the second was reported on August 6th, shortly after the return of the first.

Both these cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital at the parent's expense, the Borough only having to bear it in one instance.

There were a great many cases of Influenza during the first two months of the year, but the disease was mostly of a mild type, and only one death was attributed to it. There were also two fatal cases of Influenza during the Summer months.

During the latter half of the year there have been a good many cases of Whooping Cough and Measles, one death being attributed to each disease. In neither case, however, did the epidemic become severe enough for any question of closing the Elementary Schools to arise.

Water.

There are now 564 houses supplied with the Town Water, an increase of 61 over last year, which leaves only 77 still to be supplied.

House Accommodation.

One new house has been built during the year, but several have been so reconstructed as to be practically new, and on the whole there is a marked improvement taking place in the house accommodation of the working classes.

Drainage.

With the increased supply of Water the Sewers are working fairly well, and there is undoubtedly less offensive odour from the street catch-pits.

I must, however, again call attention to the state of the outfall at the bottom of Dog Lane. Owing to the

lack of current in the river at that point, a bank of solid matter has accumulated round the outfall, so that during last summer, when the river was very low, a stagnant pool of sewage was formed which was very offensive, and was unable to escape, except when a channel was periodically dug and it was flushed out with the fire hose.

Excrement Disposal and Scavenging.

I am glad to be able to report that there has been a considerable improvement in this respect since last year, in so far that all ashpit refuse which has to be wheeled out and deposited in the roadway before being carted away, is now dealt with in the early hours of the day.

It would, however, be a still greater improvement if all the scavenging could be done early in the day, and if the depositing of refuse in the roadway could be done away with altogether.

The disposal of the refuse is a question which urgently requires consideration. The land on which the Corporation has the right of depositing it is almost filled up, and we are already encroaching on surrounding property.

I should like to suggest that steps be taken to prevent the depositing of ashes and other refuse anywhere else than in the place provided by the Corporation.

Buckets full of ashes and rubbish of all sorts may often be seen thrown on the river bank and other conspicuous places, producing a most unsightly appearance.

There are already notices posted in various places stating that anyone doing this will be prosecuted, but they do not seem to be taken much notice of.

House to House Inspection.

This is regularly carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and our recommendations are generally carried into effect.

Burial Ground.	In a satisfactory condition.
Canal Boats.	Regularly inspected.
Bake-houses.	Regularly inspected and in a satisfactory condition.
Slaughter-houses.	These are all now supplied with the Town Water; but I cannot say that their condition is all that might be desired.
Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milkshops.	Regularly inspected and in a satisfactory condition.
Offensive Trades.	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs Act.	No case has arisen.
Food Unfit for Human Consumption.	No case.
Bye-Laws.	Duly carried out.
River Pollution.	Remains as before.
Industries.	Agriculture, Timber trade, Horn Manufacture, Brassfounding, Tanning, Brewing, and Basket Making, besides which a considerable number of people work in the Carpet Weaving and Spinning Factories of Kidderminster and Stourport.
Vans & Tents.	None except at Fair times, when they are inspected.
Factories and Workshops.	These are regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.
Special Reports.	None made.

I must congratulate the Council on having appointed a Special Committee to deal with Sanitary matters, and I trust that a considerable improvement will be made in the sanitary condition of the Borough.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

U. W. N. MILES,

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE I.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number	*Rate.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	*Rate.		Number	*Rate.
1895.	2876	64	22·2	14	216	60	20·86	Nil.	60	20·86
1896.	2876	84	29·2	13	154	53	18·43	Nil.	53	18·43
1897.	2876	88	30·59	11	125	43	14·95	Nil.	43	14·95
1898.	2876	72	25·03	11	152	42	14·60	Nil.	42	14·60
1899.	2876	76	26·42	12	157	41	14·25	Nil.	41	14·25
1900.	2876	71	24·68	7	98	51	17·73	Nil.	51	17·73
1901.	2866	87	30·35	8	91	39	13·60	Nil.	39	13·60
1902.	2866	76	26·51	7	92	52	18·14	Nil.	52	18·14
1903.	2866	86	30	4	46	29	10·11	9	38	13·25
1904.	2866	68	23·72	20	294	51	17·78	9	60	20·93
Averages for years 1895-1904.	2872	77	26·87	10	142	46	16·04	9	47	16·67
1905.	2866	61	21·28	8	131	44	15·35	6	50	17·09

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 2,866. Number of inhabited houses, 672. Average number of persons per house, 4, at Census of 1901. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2070.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905.

Notifiable Cases.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				No. of Cases remov'd to Hospit'l
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	
Erysipelas ...	5				5	
Scarlet Fever ...	13	3	7	2	1	3
Enteric Fever ...	1		1			
Totals ...	19	3	8	2	6	3

Isolation Hospital at Kidderminster.

TABLE IV.

Cause of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Measies	1		1				
Scarlet Fever ...	1					1	
Whooping Cough ...	1	1					
Enteric Fever ...	1			1			
Epidemic Influenza ...	3					2	1
Diarrhœa	1						1
Enteritis	1	1					
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	4					4	
Other tubercular diseases	1				1		
Cancer, malignant disease	3					2	1
Bronchitis ...	2		1				1
Pneumonia	3	1	2				
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	1					1	
Alcoholism) Cirrhosis of Liver)	1					1	
Premature birth ...	1	1					
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	1	1					
Heart Diseases ...	5					3	2
Accidents	1					1	
All other causes ...	18	3				3	12
All causes ...	50	8	4	1	1	18	18

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality During the Year 1905.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1—2 Months.	7—8 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes ...	3	1	1	5	2	1	8
Whooping Cough ...					1		1
Enteritis (not Tuberculous) ...					1		1
Premature Birth ...	1						1
Congenital Defects ...	1	1					2
Injury at Birth ...	1						1
Pneumonia ...						1	1
Other Causes ...			1				1

Births in the year: Legitimate, 57; Illegitimate, 4.
Population (estimated to middle of 1905) 2866.
Deaths from all causes at all ages, 50.

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